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Volume 1 Fall 2015

Article 7

2015

Community input: How much do you care about politics and why?

Veritas

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Recommended Citation

Veritas (2015) "Community input: How much do you care about politics and why?," *Veritas*: Vol. 1 , Article 7.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/veritas/vol1/iss1/7>

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Community Input:

HOW MUCH
DO YOU CARE
ABOUT POLITICS
AND WHY?

*For our first edition of **Veritas**, we wanted to hear what the Iowa State student body had to say about the way they see politics. We sent out an email and asked students how much they care about politics and why. Here are some of their responses.*



ELLIOT KLIMOWSKI

Graduate student in community and regional planning

I care about politics most of the time even though many aspects of the political climate do not apply to me directly. People need to care about all facets of the United States' political system since the way people around us are affected by political decisions can have dire impacts on our interpersonal relationships. This is how we take care of our own instead of selfishly looking out for our own interests. As Jane Jacobs once said, "people must take a modicum of public responsibility for each other even if they have no ties to each other." This is a lesson that cannot be taught but can be learned even beyond the formative years of one's life.

EMILY COWLES

Junior in public relations

I believe that I care about politics more than the average college student. I grew up in a family where politics were openly discussed and where family members ran and were elected into leadership positions in local and state government. It's hard to be a college student and keep up with politics, but I believe if someone is of age to vote they should be informed in their decisions. Tuition increases, social security, healthcare issues, national debt and unemployment rates: All of it will eventually be something we all need to be concerned about and aware of. By voting now for someone with the same views as mine, and whom I deem qualified, I can make a better future. I already registered in Iowa to be able to vote in the presidential election in 2016 and think all college students should.



How much do you care about politics and why?



GARRETT JANZEN

Graduate student in ecology, evolution and organismal biology

My mother has soap operas, my father has World War II documentaries and I have politics. Like my parents, I need to get my fix of intrigue, action, drama, unscrupulous villains, virtuous leaders, back-room betrayals, schadenfreude and comedic relief. Where my medium of choice differs from theirs is that mine carries with it the self-righteous, self-congratulatory image of being "socially-conscious" and "part of the world community." It's wonderful. I get to cheer on my favorite candidate in the debates, popcorn bucket in hand, counting the zingers and predicting the sound clips they'll play back in an hour while judging my friends who are on Netflix. I can laugh at Joe Biden's verbal and personal-boundary flubs, condemn Hillary Clinton's murky basement email servers (not that I understand what that means, but it sure doesn't sound good), and love-hate Donald Trump's vitriol and pomp, all with the warm fuzzies of "informed citizenry."



BEATRICE UPAH

Senior in elementary education

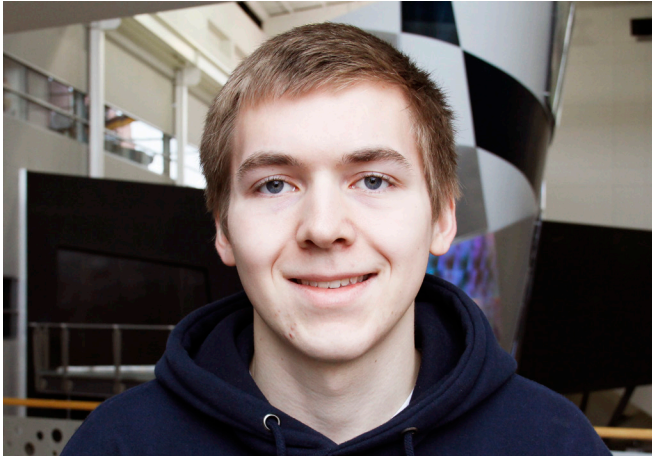
I will admit the presidential campaign process has me feeling a bit weary about politics. I will never say I don't care about it, however. If you say you don't care, you are essentially saying you have no opinion about the people who make the laws which have the potential to dictate your life. It means you have no opinion on issues such as abortion, gay rights or equal pay. It means you are willing to let other people who "care" make the decisions for you. I have never been OK with decisions being made for me, so I guess I would have to say politics are extremely important to me (and should be important to everyone else).



MICAH RAMBO

Senior in mechanical engineering

I don't.



TANNER JOHNSON

Freshman in forestry

Politics are very important to me because I believe that the world could be a better place. Politics, whether you agree with the system or not, determine our country's policies, initiatives and relations. My political free speech and my right to vote are some of the easiest ways that I can improve the future, and researching and making well-informed political decisions doesn't take nearly as long as one might expect. In my opinion, there's really no excuse not to participate, and if I don't, then I'm a part of the problem and have no right to complain about things. People can say that one vote is a mere drop in an ocean, but what is an ocean but a sea of drops?



NATHAN SCHAREN BROCK

Graduate student in civil, construction and environmental engineering

Politics: One word that strikes many emotions. At the origin of American politics, it was full of pride for the creation of a revolutionary democracy that gave power to the people. Two hundred years later and politics is a topic that many avoid to not offend anyone. Politics today is filled with corruption, false promises, accusations, secrets and hidden agendas. What used to be a system that strived for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness has now become a chess match- a match where there are only two teams and for no reason will either team ever work together to solve the problems plaguing this nation. Or better yet, a game of monopoly where the rich can throw their money around to sway a candidate's stance or buy them the election. I care immensely because I care about the future of this nation, but I feel great dismay with politics today.



ALEC ALBRIGHT

Junior in civil engineering

I don't like saying "I don't care about politics" because that sounds blunt, but that is how I feel. To me, politics is something that so many people care so much about, when they really don't have as much influence on them as they think they do. The thing everyone DOES have complete influence on is how we choose to conduct ourselves each day and what we choose to accomplish. The American rights of voting and freedom of speech are wonderful because they give everyone a say in things, but to what extent? I think so much drama, fighting, arguing, degrading and blame comes with politics, and it makes politics almost silly in my mind. Our nation will operate based off of how each and every one of us lives and acts, not by the policies in which we state what we stand for. I do see why there is a need for politics and why there is a large interest surrounding them, I just think people spend too much energy taking things to the extreme.